

Do you know ?



Number

05



The Priory of Meillerie

Founded at the beginning of the 12th century by the local canons, the priory of Meillerie was later affiliated to the provost of Grand St Bernard. In the 13th century, the site was chosen by the provosts as their principal residence. The priory, entirely reconstructed and fortified, became an important religious and economic centre. Its influence extended from Torrent to Locum and from the Memises to Leman. The priory progressively lost its importance to other residences. The canons were finally chased from Meillerie in 1752 when the priory changed its proprietor.

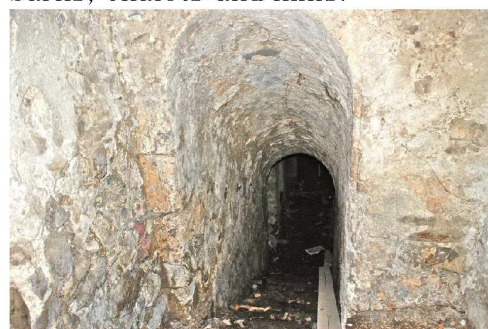
The choir of the parish church of Meillerie dates from the 12th century and is formed as a square. It is divided into two spans and decorated with sculptures in molasse – a type of conglomerate stone (vault bosses, capitals at the top of the columns). The nave dates from the first half of the 19th century and was constructed to welcome all the parishioners of the ancient priory church.

Today, only half of the priory monastic building remains, as the north wing was entirely destroyed at the beginning of the 19th century. The demolished part faced the lake, and one can see signs of the arches of the cellars beside the road. The remaining part of the building contains the kitchen, a fireplace and several bedrooms, including the prior's. In the centre of the priory there is also a small cloister.





The large cellars are under the whole surface of the building, but today one section has been condemned. The cellars served as a press, for storage and a cheesemaking area. The priory also possessed a large number of barns, chalets and mills.



Texts :

Sidonie Bochaton

Photos :

Sidonie Bochaton

Frédéric Urien

Translation :

Lesley et Eric Arthur

Map and illustration :

CC du Pays d'Evian

Constructed in the style of a defense tower in the 13th century, the belltower contained many interior rooms, access to which is gained via a spiral staircase dating from the beginning of the 17th century. On each side there are arches, transom windows and elsewhere, more modern openings. The bell was only installed in the 19th century, at the time of the extension of the church.



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LOU VIONNETS

Chalet le Maupas – 74500 Bernex
 louvionnets@free.fr
<http://louvionnets.free.fr>

